

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6325**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1359

**DATE PREPARED:** Nov 16, 2000

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Suspension of Vehicle Registration and Plates.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** James Sperlik

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9866

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a court to order suspension of the certificate of registration and license plate of a vehicle owned by or registered to a person who is convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated whenever the court recommends suspension of the person's driver's license. It requires a court to order suspension of the certificate of registration and license plate of a vehicle owned by or registered to a person who is convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated if the person does not hold any type of valid driver's license. The bill requires a person who has had a suspension of registration and license plate to receive a license plate from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that contains a unique series of letters and numbers that may be identified by a law enforcement officer. It requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to maintain a record of any suspensions or revocations of the certificate of registration or license plate of a motor vehicle owned by a person within the operating record for the person. The bill sets a fee for the reinstatement of vehicle registration.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill will require start-up costs for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) estimated at \$31,100. These costs consist of computer changes for the new license plate estimated at \$28,000; computer changes for restricted issuance of the plate estimated at \$500; and the plate design estimated at \$2,600. The fund affected is the Motor Vehicle Highway Account which supports the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. These costs can be absorbed within their current budget. The proposal allows the BMV to adopt rules to implement the proposal. Annual on-going costs are estimated at \$3,600 and consist of new plates, ordering, and distribution costs.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The proposal provides for a reinstatement fee of \$10. The specific amount of revenue generated from this newly created fee will depend upon the number of violations and reinstatements. The fund affected is the Motor Vehicle Highway Account which supports the BMV. The revenue generated may cover the costs listed above in State Expenditures.

*Penalty Provision:* Violations of certain provisions of the bill can result in a Class C misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the State General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the State General Fund.

If a criminal action, infraction or ordinance violation involves a traffic violation, including this proposed offense, a highway work zone fee of either 50 cents or \$25.50 is assessed.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Penalty Provision:* A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

**State Agencies Affected:** Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts.

**Information Sources:** Jane Morrical, Director of Financial Services, BMV, 232-2822.